



# Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

*There is history in all lives*

Volume 2, Issue 1

April 1993

## Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

### First Annual Historic Garden Week Trip to Historic Richmond Foundation Tour Byrd Park -- Westover Road

Co-sponsored by The Council  
of the Historic Richmond Foundation

**Wednesday, April 21, 1993**  
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Please meet at 7:30 at St. Paul's  
Episcopal Church  
213 N. Main Street**

**The bus will leave at 8:00 a.m. SHARP.**  
You may leave your car at the Episcopal Church parking lot.

### The cost of this trip is \$35.00

Your tour ticket is .....	15.00
Your lunch ticket is .....	6.00
Your transportation is .....	<u>14.00</u>
Total:	35.00

LUNCHEON--Picnic lunch at Maymont Park, sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women of St. James's Episcopal Church, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

There will be 7 Historic homes open which we shall tour in the morning and after lunch we shall tour Maymont and if time see their gardens.

Included in this trip will be a light breakfast, your lunch, and refreshments on the bus on the way home.

**SEE REGISTRATION FORM ON BACK**

## Note From the President

Hello and may I wish you all a joyous and healthy Spring!

Before I talk about 1993, I'd like to mention our 15th Annual Candlelight Tour that took place in West End on December 5th and 6th of last year. In order to share the names of all the caring, hard working members and friends of SNHS, I had planned to list everyone who helped in any way. Well, not only did I fear leaving out somebody, but Gay informed me that this very extensive list would consume the entire newsletter! With that consideration, we extend our heartfelt and sincere thanks and appreciation to the approximately two hundred and fifty wonderful people who volunteered their time, talents and money to create a highly successful weekend. We are especially grateful to the homeowners who made the tour possible to begin with and to the many committee and house chairmen. Each of you did a splendid job and your efforts made the tour enjoyable and informative for some over five hundred guest!

More exciting news! Cindy and Mark Garner have most graciously agreed to be Chairmen of the 1993 Christmas tour!! How wonderful!

The March business meeting was well attended, fun, extremely informative, optimistic and the food was delicious! To all of you who ventured out to the country on a week night, thank you very much. We are especially grateful to Dinesh Tiwari and Bob Chisom for sharing their insights and ideas concerning their past experiences, as well as their ideas and concerns for Suffolk.

Recently a committee of six met with Jim Vacalis and Mark Shea of the Suffolk Planning Commission. The focus of the meeting was to discuss and express our concerns for the future of downtown Suffolk, the Court House, Suffolk High School, Thomas Jefferson School, and the old Railroad Station. It was an excellent meeting and we all left with optimism and high hopes for this very special old town we call home. Please convey your interest and concerns as plans are already being formulated. Let's not wait until all the decisions have been made. Our council members and employees know of our desires only if we take the time to inform them.

We have a lot of new members and Mary Lawrence Harrell and I  
(cont see PRESIDENT)



**Suffolk-Nansemond  
Historical Society**

**Officers 1993-94**

President .....	Betsy Brothers
	539-6312
Vice-President .....	Sue Woodward
Past President .....	Jim Moore
Corresponding Secretary .	Gay Birdsong
Recording Secretary .....	Melissa Odom
Treasurer .....	Dorothy Williams
Historian .....	Marion Watson

**Standing Committees**

Membership ...	Mary Lawrence Harrell
	539-4796
Ways and Means .....	Betty Ellison
Publications .....	Marion Watson
Hospitality .....	Vonnie Foreman
Christmas Candlelight	
Tour .....	Mark Garner
	Cindy Garner

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THE SUN MARCH 28, 1993

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Future of downtown should be  
concern to all**

The future of downtown Suffolk is definitely of great importance to all of us.

Certainly it will take great patience and vision, planning, caring and money. Quite a few of the owners already have taken advantage of help offered by the Main Street program, and hopefully more will in the next months.

It seems to me downtown would benefit from a mixture of uses. Placing some of the government offices there would assure renovation and upkeep of those buildings, as well as bringing people who would eat, shop and use the ample parking facilities.

Our town already has several outstanding antique businesses, and perhaps bringing more antique stores downtown could be a real drawing card for us. Suffolk also has fine furniture stores downtown that have been here for decades.

Bringing more people downtown would certainly boost the sales of clothing and retail shops and hopefully bring more stores.

Not only those of us who live here, but many from North Carolina and other places, often drive through downtown Suffolk. I don't believe we lack a market.

The next time you ride through, instead of focusing on empty stores, etc., allow yourself to think what could be. Look at the buildings with new paint and awnings, at the wonderful old brick work on many of the buildings, and visualize that type of work under some of the facades that remain.

Perhaps with more renovations, paint, awnings and appropriate signs, and perhaps some window boxes and flags and lots of commitment from all of us, this dream for Suffolk could come true.

In the meantime, we must push to get the big trucks from using downtown streets during business hours, if not all hours.

Anything is possible if enough people care. And people do care. Downtown is the focus of conversations constantly.

But we must make our voices heard. Please write or call your council member or the mayor or the newspapers and let them know that you do care.

**Betsy Brothers**  
President

Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

**President (cont)**

get excited nearly every time we open the mail. This is such an important time for our community and your interest and help are greatly appreciated and needed.

Soon Suffolk and Virginia will be splashed with magnificent color as Spring bursts forth. We hope many of you will take advantage of the Society's exhibit on **April 17th** in conjunction with the Nansemond-River Garden Club's, Northern Suffolk River Tour. The tour should be especially beautiful, so I hope you will make an effort to support the Garden Clubs of Virginia, as all proceeds support the restoration of historic gardens in our beautiful state. You'll not only have a most enjoyable day, but help an outstanding effort at the same time.

Also, this year we are renting a bus and encourage you to join us on **April 21st** for an exciting Richmond tour. While enjoying this fabulous tour, you'll be supporting the work of Historic Richmond Foundation.

Looking forward to seeing you soon and thank all of you for making my first year as president such a success. If you have ideas to share with us, please call me, I'd love to hear from you.

*Betsy Brothers*



## Treasurer's Report - March 25, 1993

### Money on Deposit in local banks:

General Acct. Bank of Suffolk	4749.80
Publications Acct.	9483.83
Nations Bank	3599.08
Crestar - Certificate	2875.78
	<u>20,708.49</u>

### Income for 1992

Interest on Bank Accounts	355.84
Membership	1840.00
Profit from Book Sales	2692.51
Profit SNHS Publications Sales	114.97
Profit Christmas House Tour	4758.90
	<u>9762.22</u>

### General Expenses for 1992

Postage	197.78
Box Rent	35.00
Newsletters	334.00
Rent - Riddick's Folly	1800.00
Insurance	250.00
Donation - Library	300.00
	<u>2916.78</u>

Net Income for 1992 . . . . . 6489.60

## Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society 3-25-93

### Money on deposit in local Banks:

General Acct. Bank of Suffolk	4749.80
Publications Acct.	9483.83
Nations Bank	3599.08
Crestar-Certificate	2875.78
Book sales in 1992	5904.55
Purchases & Expenses	3212.04 . 2692.51
Memberships paid in 1992	1840.00
Other publications sold	264.97
Expense printing cards	150.00 . 114.97
Christmas House Tour	
Ticket sales & donations	5360.00
Tour expenses	601.10 . 4758.90
	9406.38
	<u>355.84</u>
	<u>9762.22</u>

### Other General Expense

Postage	197.78
Box Rent	35.00
Newsletters	334.00
Riddick Folly rent	1800.00
Insurance	250.00
Donation	300.00
	<u>2916.78</u>

Interest on Bank Accts . . . . . 355.84  
Net Income for 1992 . . . . . \$6489.60

### What A Business Meeting!

What a wonderful time we all had at Sundown Lodge for our annual business meeting March 29th at 6:30. Can you believe we had forty members and guest for a business meeting?!!

Each of us brought our favorite covered-dish and to all the cooks, the food was out of this world.

It was wonderful to have Bob Chisom from the Suffolk Main Street Program and Dinesh Tiwari who is the Director of Suffolk Parks and Recreation Department. We enjoyed having them so much and they were very informative.

A big thank you to Betsy and Tom for having us at Sundown Lodge.

Love, Gay



**Sundown Lodge**  
That get away place of  
Tom and Betsy Brothers

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues

☐ Individual \$10.00

☐ Family \$15.00

Please mail with your check to:

Mrs. John C. Harrell, Membership Chairman  
**Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 1255  
Suffolk, Virginia 23439-1255



## Marion Watson's Report

On Saturday April 17, 1993 the Nansemond River Garden Club, during **Historic Garden Week in Virginia**, will have a tour in the Northeast section of Chuckatuck and Sleepy Hole districts in Suffolk.

They have asked the Suffolk-Nansemond Historic Society to have an exhibition in the club house at Bennetts Creek Landing on Bennetts Creek.

We will have local Nansemond Indian artifacts, pictures of homes, men and women who were born or lived in the districts and pictures of a few of the men who were stationed at Town Point during the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

All of our members should attend this interesting tour.



## SUFFOLK MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Downtown Suffolk Association  
P.O. Box 404 • Suffolk, Virginia 23434 • (804) 539-3592



March 30, 1993

March 31, 1993

Mrs. Betsy Brothers  
Suffolk - Nansemond Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1255  
Suffolk, Virginia 23434

Dear Mrs. Brothers:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and Gay Birdsong for inviting me to your meeting and for being such wonderful hosts. The food was great and I especially enjoyed talking to everyone. It was especially gratifying to see so many preservation minded people all together in one room, and it is exciting to know that you and the others will be supportive of our efforts downtown. I hope the Society will voice its support to City Council. Perhaps we can accomplish some worthy programs downtown in a joint effort.

I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely,

*Bt*

Bob Chison  
Director

CC: Gay Birdsong

Mrs. Betsy Brothers  
Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society  
P. O. Box 1255  
Suffolk, Virginia 23434

Dear Mrs. Brothers:

Just a note to thank you and the Historical Society for inviting me to the get-together and dinner at the Sundown Lodge Clubhouse. It turned out a wonderful opportunity for me to meet new people and learn about the activities of the local Historical Society. Your clubhouse was the most appropriate setting for this event.

I look forward to working with you and other members of the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society on matters of mutual interests.

Sincerely,

*Dinesh*  
Dinesh V. Tiwari  
Director

DVT:aap

## Richmond Tour Registration

Please print clearly

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

To reserve a seat on the bus call Betsy Brothers, 539-6312\*. Your reservation will be confirm upon receipt of your check by Saturday, April 17. Make checks payable to: SNHS and mail to:

Betsy Brothers  
313 Riverview Drive  
Suffolk, Virginia 23434

\*Please leave a message on the machine if no one is at home.



Department of Parks and Recreation  
Post Office Box 1858, Suffolk, Virginia 23434 • 804/925-6325

## Summer Fun

for SNHS members and guests

A one day bus trip to

**Chippokes Plantation,**

**Bacon's Castle**

and suprise lunch

Date and Time to be announced

**Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society**

P.O. Box 1255

Suffolk, Virginia 23439-1255

